

Little River TMDL, Oregon
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Approval Date: January 2002

Pollutants: Temperature and sediment

Scope: **Watershed:** 206 square miles, 741 total stream miles
 Temperature: 9 listed streams, 66 miles
 Sediment: 3 listed streams, 41 miles
Temperature and sediment loading upstream of listed streams contribute to downstream impairments. Therefore all waters are addressed within the TMDL.

Sources: Timber harvest. The upper half of the watershed contains lands managed by the US Forest Service, while the lower watershed is of mixed private and federal ownership (Bureau of Land Management (BLM)).

TMDL Recommendations:

Temperature: The TMDL recommends that temperature be reduced to levels which occur under natural site potential conditions (0% loading from anthropogenic activities, including forest harvest). Targets are expressed as percent effective shade so that attainment can be easily monitored by land management agencies.

Sediment: The TMDL recommends that sediment load (tons/year) be reduced to 70% of controllable sediment inputs. Instream and hillslope targets are established for purposes of implementation and monitoring.

What is Successful about this TMDL?

The Oregon DEQ developed the TMDL in close cooperation with the US Forest Service, BLM, and the major private timber interests in the watershed. The USFS and BLM not only provided an extensive amount of data for the TMDL but also provided their expertise towards analyzing temperature and sediment loadings and the potential reductions which could be expected. Without the assistance of USFS and BLM staff, much of the data and analysis found in the final TMDL would not have occurred and the final TMDL would have been of a significantly lower quality.

Both the BLM and USFS have expressed to EPA the value they see in having an approved TMDL for the watershed. The USFS hydrologist for the Umpqua National Forest expressed in an email: "The official EPA approval of the Little River Total Maximum Daily Load means ... better water quality in Little River, now and in the future. We can now spend our time making good recommendations on the ground!" The assessment and quantification within the TMDL has allowed land managers to target restoration and protection efforts in the watershed.